Butterfly Bush, Cranberry

Buddleia 'Balchryran'

Height: 28 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Summer Lilac

Group/Class: Chrysalis Series

Description:

A compact selection bred for an abundance of cranberry red flowers in summer, over rich green foliage; attracts butterflies; may treat as a perennial and cut it back to the ground each spring as it regrows vigorously and blooms on new wood



Butterfly Bush, Cranberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Butterfly Bush, Cranberry in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Butterfly Bush, Cranberry features showy panicles of fragrant ruby-red flowers at the ends of the branches from mid spring to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive grayish green foliage with white undersides which emerges light green in spring. The narrow leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Butterfly Bush, Cranberry is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Butterfly Bush, Cranberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Butterfly Bush, Cranberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Butterfly Bush, Cranberry will grow to be about 28 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Butterfly Bush, Cranberry makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.